

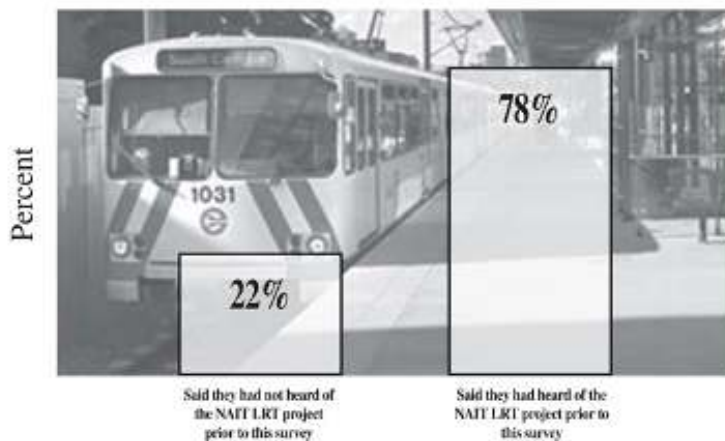


Poll STATION

With Linda Banister

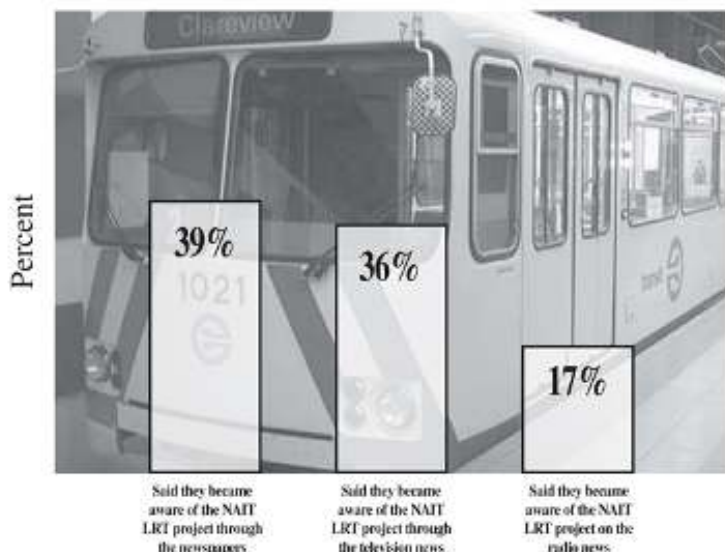
The City is growing and so too is the LRT. To better serve Edmontonians, construction is currently underway for the 7.5 kilometre South LRT Expansion. As well, there are a number of other planning studies researching future possible LRT routes. This month's *Edmontonians'* poll focused on the LRT expansion from downtown to NAIT.

ARE YOU AWARE OF AND INTERESTED IN A DOWNTOWN TO NAIT LRT PROJECT?



To begin the survey, respondents were asked to indicate if, prior to the survey, they had heard of the City of Edmonton Transit Downtown to NAIT LRT project. Over three-quarters (78 percent) of respondents stated they had, while 22 percent had not. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being not at all interested and 5 being very interested), they were then asked to rate their personal level of interest in this project. Almost half (48 percent) reported they were interested (4 or 5 out of 5), while 25 percent indicated a moderate interest, and 26 percent were not interested (1 or 2 out of 5).

WHERE AND WHAT DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN TO NAIT PROJECT?



Respondents that were previously aware of this project were asked where they had heard about the Downtown to NAIT LRT project. Respondents most frequently stated newspapers (39 percent), followed by television news (36 percent), the radio (17 percent) and the news (unspecified) (17 percent). When asked what they had heard about the project, 26 percent heard the City was planning to expand the LRT from downtown to NAIT. Eighteen percent heard the project was in the planning state and no decision had yet been made, while 14 percent indicated that they had heard there was difficulty agreeing on the route the LRT will take, and 12 percent heard the project was too expensive.

WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

Next, respondents that were aware of the project were asked how they would describe their overall impression of the Downtown to NAIT LRT project. The majority (58 percent) indicated they were somewhat (31 percent) or very positive (27 percent), while 35 percent said they were neutral toward the project, and five percent stated they were somewhat negative toward the project.

Respondents with a somewhat negative impression of the project were asked why they felt that way. Reasons varied; The city needs more public transportation and public transportation should serve other areas; not everyone would use it; money should be put into the existing LRT and not into expansion; and the project was poorly designed.

Respondents that had a neutral, somewhat or very positive impression of the Downtown to NAIT LRT project were also asked why they felt the way they did. Twenty-one percent thought it would be good for NAIT students; 19 percent believed the city needs more public transportation and should also serve more areas. Thirteen percent stated it would make transportation easier for many people, and another 13 percent thought it would reduce traffic. ✓

Monthly Poll Station Online Question

Visit www.edmontonians.com to register your opinion

Want a question included in the Edmontonians Poll?

Contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail lbanner@edmontonians.com.

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